

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 OES-07 OMB-01 TRSY-02 H-01

EB-08 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00

AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 /115 W

-----009558 040323Z /61

R 031742Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9180

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 06747

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG WMO

SUBJECT: WMO SYG POSITION: POTENTIAL US CANDIDATE

REF: STATE 092197

1. REQUEST FURTHER GUIDANCE FOR MEETING WITH WMO SYG DAVIES AS PROPOSED IN DEPARTMENT CABLE OF REFERENCE. HAVE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH DR. R. M. WHITE, PRESENTLY IN GENEVA. HE CONCURS WITH SUGGESTIONS THAT FOLLOW IN THIS CABLE. MY RESPONSE IS CLEAR IF DAVIES INDICATES EITHER THAT HE WILL BE A CANDIDATE, OR THAT HE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANOTHER TERM. A LIKELY CIRCUMSTANCE, HOWEVER, IS THAT DAVIES MAY INDICATE THAT HE HAS NOT YET DECIDED ON HIS CANDIDACY, OR THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO BE AN ACTIVE CANDIDATE BUT WILL BE AVAILABLE IF MEMBERS WISH HIM TO CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER TERM. WHITE REGARDS CHANCES FOR SUCCESS OF HIS CANDIDACY UNDER LATTER CIRCUMSTANCES AS BEING SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED. EFFORT MUST THEREFORE BE MADE TO MOVE DAVIES TO A DECISION NOT TO STAND.

2. THEREFORE, REQUEST CONCURRENCE IN FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED IN PARA. 1 ARISE. I INTEND TO PROPOSE TO DAVIES: A) HIS INDECISION LEAVES ALL GOVERNMENTS UNCERTAIN ABOUT FUTURE LEADERSHIP OF WMO. IT
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PRESENTS USG WITH SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES. PROLONGED POST-PONEMENT OF DAVIES DECISION REDUCES CHANCES OF WHITE'S AVAILABILITY AND PREVENTS USG FROM UNDERTAKING NECESSARY STEPS TO SECURE SUPPORT FOR HIM. USG HOPES THAT DAVIES POSITION WILL BE CLEAR BY END OF THE EX COM, MID-JUNE 1978; B) SHOULD DAVIES NOT TAKE CLEAR POSITION ON HIS CANDIDACY BY END OF EX COM, US MAY WISH TO ADVANCE WHITE'S CANDIDACY

(DEPENDENT ON OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES AND ITS ASSESSMENT OF OTHER POTENTIAL CANDIDATES) AS MEANS OF ENSURING THAT A CANDIDATE OF DEMONSTRATED TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL CAPABILITIES WILL INDEED BE AVAILABLE; C) IF DAVIES CONTINUES TO BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE END OF THE EX COM SESSION, US CONCERNED ABOUT PROSPECT OF STALEMATE AT WMO CONGRESS, WITH POSSIBLE EMERGENCE OF LESS ABLE COMPROMISE CANDIDATE. FYI THIS CONCLUSION BASED ON ASSESSMENT OF GROWING DISSATISFACTION WITH DAVIES ADMINISTRATION OF WMO AND HIS POSSIBLE INABILITY TO MARSHALL THE REQUIRED TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR ELECTION. END FYI; D) IN LIGHT OF WHITE'S PRESENT AVAILABILITY, WIDE SUPPORT FOR HIS CANDIDACY AND HIS ABILITY TO PRESERVE AND BUILD UPON DAVIES ACHIEVEMENTS, OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP FOR WMO IS BEST ASSURED IF TRANSITION TO NEW SYG BE MADE AT NEXT WMO CONGRESS, MAY 1979.

3. I PLAN TO SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH SYG DAVIES DURING WEEK OF MAY 8, BUT AWAIT RESPONSE TO MY PROPOSED APPROACH.

4. CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER GENEVA CHIEFS OF MISSIONS OF SELECTED WMO EC MEMBERS PRIOR TO THE EX COM SESSION ARE SUGGESTED. DISCUSSIONS WITH UK AMBASSADOR COULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA06747
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780189-0863
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780599/aaaadgbz.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 644023a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 92197
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2808358
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WMO SYG POSITION: POTENTIAL US CANDIDATE
TAGS: AORG, WMO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/644023a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014